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Docket No. 87289.1741 Customer No. 30734

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Application of:

BUTTS et al.

Application No.: 10/022,194

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: EQUIPMENT MONITORING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

RECEIVE

FEB 2 2 2002

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits in this application, please amend the claims of the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 31 and 33 as follows:

31. Adevice that provides remote diagnostic and control capability for equipment comprising:

remote means for monitoring the equipment; and means for controlling the equipment through the means for monitoring, wherein the means for controlling is attached to the equipment.

33. The device of claim 31, wherein the means for controlling is a controller.